

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca

Issue: 10-05

February 5, 2010

- Vancouver population reaches 2.3 million in 2009
- BC jobless rate dips to 8.1% in January
- Value of building permits drops 28.0% in 2009

Labour

- Employment gains in British Columbia (+0.5%) outstripped an expansion in the size of the labour force (+0.3%). This put downward pressure on the province's jobless rate (-0.2 percentage points), which dipped to 8.1% in January. Employment gains made in January were entirely the result of an increase in the number of part-time jobs (+3.3%) as the number of full-time positions fell for a fourth consecutive month (-0.2%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- BC's goods sector began the year on a more positive note as employment rose 2.3% in January. While agriculture (+1.8%) and manufacturing (+0.6%) yielded modest increases, more substantial job creation was seen in construction (+2.5%) and forestry, fishing & mining (+10.9%).

The service sector showed only marginal employment growth (+0.1%) in January. Shedding the largest number of jobs was professional, scientific & technical services (-10.1%) followed by public administration (-2.4%) and health care & social assistance (-2.0%). Offsetting these declines were employment increases in trade (+3.8%), finance, insurance & real estate (+2.8%), education (+2.4%) and accommodation & food services (+2.2%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- Jobless rates at the regional level (3-month moving average, unadjusted) ranged from a low of 4.9% in Northeast to a high of 12.0% in Cariboo in January. Nearly all regions of the province registered lower employment levels compared to the same month last year

with the largest setbacks in North Coast/Nechako (-8.6%) and Cariboo (-8.0%). Only Thompson/Okanagan (+3.2%) and Mainland/Southwest (+0.2%) posted employment gains. The unemployment rate in Vancouver (8.0%) came in just under the provincial rate while Victoria's was significantly lower (6.8%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- Nationally, employment rose 43,000 in January, all in part-time jobs pushing the nation's unemployment rate down 0.1 percentage points to 8.3%. Ontario accounted for more than half of employment gains (+0.5%) followed by British Columbia (+0.5%) and Manitoba (+1.4%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities climbed higher in December (+12.9%, seasonally adjusted). While non-residential permits slumped (-9.4%), the value of residential construction intentions soared (+22.8%). Vancouver (+21.7%) and Kelowna (+32.8%) both saw double-digit increases in planned building activity. Abbotsford-Mission (-1.7%) and Victoria (-3.4%), however, registered declines. Nationally, the value of permits was up 2.4% in December. This increase was driven primarily by the commercial component of the non-residential sector.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

2009 in Review

- The labour market outcomes of BC's established immigrants (10+ years) are similar to their Canadian born counterparts. For example, in 2009, the unemployment rate

Did you know...

In 2007, 1,243 kidneys were transplanted in Canada, 39% from living donors.

Data Source: World Health Organization

among BC's established immigrants (aged 25 to 54) was 6.4%, identical to their Canadian-born counterparts. In contrast, very recent (5 or fewer years) and recent (5 to 10 years) immigrants (aged 25 to 54) had higher unemployment rates at 11.4% and 7.1% respectively.

The jobless rate among BC's adult Aboriginal population (off-reserve, aged 25 to 64) climbed to 6.6% in 2009, an increase of 2.7 percentage points from 3.9% in 2008.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- Contractors took out \$7.6 billion in building permits in 2009, down 28.0% from the previous year and the lowest annual total since 2003. Most of the weakness in permit values is due to a 35.1% drop in the value of residential permits. Every development region of the province registered a decline in the value of residential building plans, most notably in Vancouver Island/Coast (-32.5%) and Mainland/Southwest (-30.1%). The commercial (-32.9%) and industrial (-16.2%) sectors also posted permit values significantly off from the previous year's totals. The value of institutional & government sector permits, however, were up sharply (+48.9%) in 2009.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Education

- Between 1995 and 2005, the proportion of students relying on student loans to fund their post-secondary education rose from 49% to 57%. Not surprisingly, the average size of the debt carried due to student loans increased from \$15,200 to \$18,800. The share of borrower owing \$25,000 or more in student loans has also increased, from 17% in 1995 to 27% by 2005.

Among post-secondary graduates, full-time employment rates were slightly higher for borrowers (81%) than non-borrowers (78%). However, having a student loan did not have a significant impact on the level of income earned relative to other post-secondary graduates. Interestingly, student loan borrowers were less likely (42%) to have savings

and investments than non-borrowers (52%). Also, the probability of having a registered retirement plan is not impacted by borrower/non-borrower status, but is most highly correlated with education attainment level.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 75-001-X

Population

- Much of the population growth in the Vancouver census metropolitan area (CMA) was due to international migration. At July 1, 2009 the Vancouver CMA's population reached 2,328,007 individuals, a net increase of 48,740 individuals from the same date one year earlier. Nearly all (92%) of this increase was attributable to the 44,788 international migrants who arrived in the CMA. This increase came despite a net outflow of people from the Vancouver CMA either to other regions of the province (-5,612 persons) or to other provinces altogether (-390 persons). Compared to the rest of the country, population growth in Vancouver (21.2 per 1,000 population) was ranked fourth among all CMA's after Calgary (31.7 per 1,000), Saskatoon (28.49 per 1,000) and Edmonton (24.6 per 1,000). The median age of the Vancouver CMA was 39.0 years in 2009, a 2.0 year increase since 2001, but slightly below the median age for the country as a whole (39.5 years).

While there were 264 more deaths than births in the CMA, Victoria's population nevertheless rose to 352,421. This was largely as a result of 2,093 international migrants. Other sources of population growth in the Victoria CMA included intraprovincial (867 persons) and interprovincial (1,797 persons) migration. The Victoria CMA's growth rate (12.8 per 1,000 population) ranked sixteenth among the country's 33 CMA's, ahead of Kitchener, Ontario (12.7 per 1,000), but behind Moncton, New Brunswick (13.0 per 1,000). Victoria's median age reached 43.6 years in 2009, up 2.9 years since 2001.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Infoline Issue: 10-05
February 5, 2010*

Food for Thought: How Green is Our Diet?

The food that Canadians consume, produce, buy, sell, and even waste plays a significant role in our daily lives, culture and environment. The Canadian food system includes all the products produced and the processes and activities carried out to put food on tables in households and restaurants and to provide goods for trade. As the global population increases, the world's interdependence on energy, water, land and food is taking more precedence in the forefront of the discussion surrounding biological resources and the environment as a whole. Like those in some other parts of the world, Canadians are consuming more calories and spending more money on food than ever before. Canadians represent approximately 0.5% of the earth's population, consume about 0.6% of the world food production and produce nearly 1.5% of the food on the planet¹.

The food industry is complex and spans numerous sectors and subsectors, overlapping into many industries. Agriculture and fisheries comprise the primary food sector, while the activities involved in food-related manufacturing make up the secondary sector. Food-related services, like transportation, food retail, marketing and food services, contribute to the tertiary sector, which involves the set of activities tied to the service-side of the food system².

The food system in Canada is a big player in the nation's economy. In 2004, the national food system contributed \$52 billion to the country's \$1.2

¹ The Population Division and the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2009. As referred to in Statistics Canada, 2009, Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics. Catalogue #16-201-XIE

² For a more detailed breakdown of the food system and its classifications, see Statistics Canada, 2009, Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics, Catalogue #16-201-XIE

trillion gross domestic product (GDP). Similarly, approximately five percent (860,000 individuals) of Canada's workers were employed in some aspect of the food system. These workers include not only farmers and fishers, but also those involved in warehousing, transporting, selling, preparing and serving food and food products. Data used primarily to determine the economic facets of the food system can also be used to provide a glimpse of some of its impacts on the environment.

Food and the Environment

All components of the food system can have implications for the environment. Much of the terrain surrounding agriculture in Canada is highly contested and varying viewpoints are commonplace among farmers, environmental groups, policy makers and the general population as a whole. Obvious environmental impacts include things such as the effects of agricultural activities on surrounding ecosystems, waste, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). However, the concern over the impact of certain practices is not always as simple as they appear to be. For example, fisheries can alter existing aquatic ecosystems through things like the introduction of non-native species and over-fishing. Meanwhile, aquaculture provides an alternative to traditional fisheries and some of the problems that come with it, but can potentially cause new problems such as nutrient pollution from fish waste, the depletion of the natural fish stock to feed farmed fish and the escape of non-native, farmed fish into wild oceans, creating a new threat to the livelihood of wild fish stocks³.

³ For more information on fish stocks in BC, see The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Management of Fish Health in BC: http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ahc/fish_health/fish_health_management.htm

As in the case of aquaculture, some agricultural practices can have negative impacts on ecosystems and the environment in general. At the same time, appropriate farmland management can also benefit the habitat of many species of wildlife⁴.

Some key components

Given water's key role as being essential to crop and livestock production, agricultural water usage is one of the most obvious indicators of the environmental impact of farming practices. Water for farming purposes, to the tune of 4.8 billion cubic metres in Canada in 2001, is used most commonly for irrigation of crops, watering livestock, pesticide sprays and washing equipment. Agricultural water use varies from region to region, mostly as a result of Canada's diverse climate conditions and types of crops grown. In 2007, of farmers in b who irrigated, 62% used water to clean farm buildings and/or equipment, 51% used water to spray pesticides or fertilizers and 39% used water for livestock. Other farm operations that utilize water include harvesting, cooling of produce and processing and packaging products. In that same year, the vast majority (91%) of Canadian irrigators reported using one or more practice(s) to conserve water and energy⁵.

Although land management is vital to increase soil fertility and productivity, the environmental ramifications of practices other than water usage, such as those involving tillage, soil erosion, GHG emissions, energy use and the use of pesticides and fertilizers can also have adverse effects⁶.

⁴ For information on the impacts of agricultural land-use on wildlife see Agri-Food Canada, 2007. The National Agri-Environmental Health Analysis and Reporting Program (NAHARP).

⁵ Statistics Canada, Environment Accounts and Statistics Division, 2008.

⁶ For information on the impacts of agricultural practices on environmental components, see Statistics Canada's Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics. 2009. Catalogue # 16-201-XIE

Many of the steps that are taken to put food on household tables require energy and result in substantive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Fuel is required not only in the agricultural vein, but in all facets of food production for a multitude of activities that contribute to the production of food, such as sowing crops, tilling land, shipping, packaging and processing food goods. Looking at the amount of energy required to produce food shows an interesting dynamic of the environmental impact of the food system.

In 2003, Canadians purchased \$63.5 billion in food and non-alcoholic beverages from stores, resulting in the indirect and direct⁷ production of 45,687 kilotonnes of GHGs, and a usage of 415,177 terajoules of energy. Nearly a quarter (23%) of all food-related GHG emissions in that year were attributable to the production of meat. Animal products involve higher amounts energy use to produce than do prepared foods. Beef and cheese ranked first and second, respectively, for percentage of contributions to both total GHG emissions and total energy use for food commodities.

Distribution of agricultural land

Agricultural activity requires specific soil and climate conditions that are conducive to successful farming. In Canada, it is estimated that a mere five percent of total land area is suitable for long-term annual crop production⁸. Most of this land is used for farming purposes, but some of it has been paved over or built upon. A further 72.4 million hectares are suitable for tame grasslands, which may be used for grazing livestock. Overall, 67.6 million hectares were used for farming purposes in 2006, approximately seven

⁷ 'Direct' household emissions are the greenhouse gases that are emitted when people drive their vehicles for personal use and use fossil fuels to heat their homes. 'Indirect' household emissions are the greenhouse gases that are emitted when industries produce the goods and services that people purchase for household use.

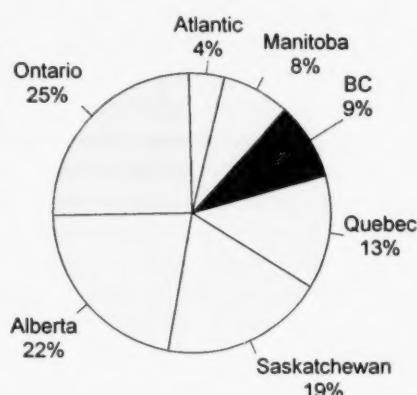
⁸ Canada Land Inventory.

percent of the national land mass. Technically, of the hectares that comprise this farm land, the country is divided into 15 terrestrial ecozones and a further 194 ecoregions, which share common ecological characteristics⁹. Some of these divisions span between parts of two or more provinces, so it is also of interest to compare interprovincial agricultural activity.

In 2006, there were nearly 230,000 farms operating across Canada's 67.6 million hectares of farm land. In that same year, British Columbia was home to nearly 19,850 (2.8 million hectares) of the nation's farms. Nearly three-quarters (73% in 2006) of the province's farms are crop farms. The largest percentage of the nation's farms operated in Ontario (25%), followed by Alberta (22%) and Saskatchewan (19%). The provincial distribution of farm operations in Canada has remained relatively constant in recent years, but has fluctuated in certain provinces. For example, in 1986, BC was home to seven percent of the nation's farms, and by 2006, the share had jumped two full percentage points to nine percent. At the same time, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec each saw their share of farms slip. Aside from BC, Alberta and Nova Scotia were the only other provinces to increase their share of Canada's farm operations between 1986 and 2006.

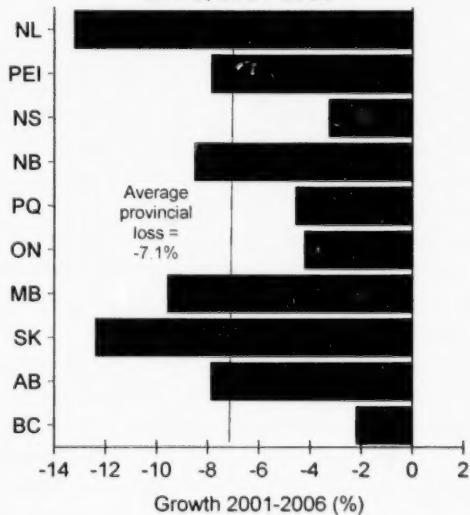
As is the case in other provinces, BC has seen its number of farms decline significantly over the past five years. For example, in 2001, there were 20,290 farms operating in the province, but by 2006, this number had fallen 2.2% to 19,844. Nationally, the dwindling number of farms often coincides with an increase in the average area of farms, perhaps as a result of smaller farms being bought out by larger operations. This pattern has proven true for BC's farms, with the average farm in 2001 spanning 128 hectares and growing to an average of 143 hectares by 2006.

Shares of Canadian farms,
by province, 2006



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Every province saw a decline in operating farms, 2001-2006



Source: Statistics Canada

⁹ Canadian Council on Ecological Areas.

Interestingly, however, BC has not seen the same pattern as the rest of the country in terms of declining numbers of farms over the longer term. In 1986 (19,063 farms reported), the province housed nearly 800 fewer farms than it did twenty years later in 2006 (+4.1% to 19,844 farms). By comparison, the number of farms operating in Canada as a whole declined 21.7% between 1986 and 2006. In fact, BC was the only province to see a rise in the number of operating farms over the twenty-year span. This could perhaps be partly attributable to the upward trend in organic farming in the province.

Organic farming

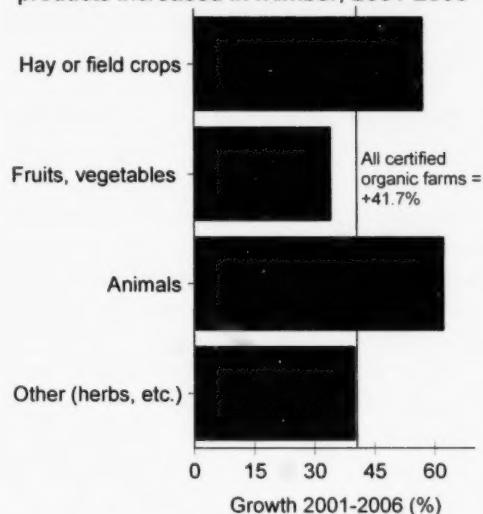
Despite an overall decline in the number of farms as a whole in recent years, organic farms appear to be on the rise in Canada. Organic farming continues most notably to take root in BC, with proportionally more farms devoted to this method of raising crops and animals than in any other province. According to the 2006 Census, there were 3,232 farms with organic production¹⁰ in British Columbia in that year. This accounted for 16% of all farms in the province, well above the national average of seven percent. Of the 3,232 BC farms reporting organic products in 2006, 86% yielded products that were produced by organic practices, but did not go through formal certification, two percent were in transition to becoming certified and 14% produced certified organic products¹¹. The number of farms in the province that produce "certified" organic products has surged in recent years. Between 2001 and 2006, there was a 41.7% increase in the number of BC farms reporting certified organic products. The increase was fuelled by growth in a broad spectrum of farms, with those producing animals or animal prod-

¹⁰ Organic production refers to "uncertified organic," transitional, or certified organic products.

¹¹ Note that totals do not add to 100%, as farms can indicate more than one organic status for different products.

ucts (+62.3%), hay or field crops (+57.1%) and fruits, vegetables and greenhouse products (+34.1%) all recording double-digit jumps.

Growers of all types of certified organic products increased in number, 2001-2006



Source: Statistics Canada

Due to its climate and large expanses of cropland suited for mechanization, Canada's most common certified organic products are field crops and hay¹². The second largest certified organic product category is fruit, vegetable and greenhouse products. With almost 80% of all certified organic farms in British Columbia reported growing fruit, vegetable and greenhouse products in 2006, the province had the highest number of certified producers in this category in the nation¹³.

Although farming is a relatively small industry in BC, 13% of Canada's organic farmers were operating in the province in 2006. Saskatchewan was home to one third (1,230) of all organic farms in 2005. Ontario had the most actual acreage being used for organic production (81,974 acres), but with 497 certified farms, ac-

¹² Canadian Organic Growers' Association

¹³ Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2006.

counted for just 14% of the national total. Quebec had 816 certified producers in 2005, representing 23% of organic farmers in Canada, while Alberta (7%), Manitoba (6%) and the Atlantic provinces made up comparatively smaller proportions of Canada's organic farms.

The increasing presence of organic farms in BC and in the rest of the country has undoubtedly contributed to a growing diversity in food availability and has allowed consumers more choice in the types of food they purchase. The demand for certified organic foods is growing across the country. Between 2005 and 2006, Alberta supermarkets had the highest jump in sales of such products (+44%), followed by BC (+34%), Atlantic Canada (+34%), Ontario (+24%) and Quebec (+21%). However, on a per capita basis, demand is by far the greatest in BC. Although the province is home to just 13% of Canada's population, it represents a striking 26% of all Canadian certified organic food sales¹⁴.

Although organic farming has experienced a notable boost in numbers in recent years, Canadians are still consuming mostly non-organic foods. In 2006, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada oversaw a study on sales of certified organic products through traditional mainstream supermarkets. It found that total sales of certified organic food had grown 28% overall from 2005 to 2006, with sales of pre-packaged certified organic goods climbing 31% and fresh products up 22%. Despite this impressive growth, sales of certified organic products accounted for less than 1% of the \$46.5 billion Canadians spent in national grocery stores in 2006. That being said, many consumers purchase through farmers' markets, smaller grocery chains, natural food stores, community-supported agriculture and food box deliveries. It is estimated that just under 60% of certified organic products are sold through such alternative venues.

¹⁴ Statistics Canada, 2008, Canadian Agriculture at a Glance, Catalogue #96-325-XIE

What are Canadians eating?

Canadian consumers have come to expect a wide variety of foods available year-round. Amounts of organic foods available for consumption are not available, but regardless of growing practices, Canadians' eating habits reflect the quantity of foods made available for consumer consumption. A visit to the grocery store yields a glimpse of the growing diversity of foods commonly consumed in Canadian households.

According to the 2008 snapshot of food available for consumption, on a per capita basis, Canadians appear to be changing their diets. The average Canadian added more berries (+10.9% from 2007), tea (+9.4%), asparagus (+9.1%), yogurt (+7.6%), processed fruits (+6.6%), wine (+2.6%) and poultry (+1.1%) to their diet in 2008¹⁵. On the other hand, per capita consumption of red meat (-5.1%), milk (-1.3%) and oils and fats (-1.0%) declined in 2008, continuing their respective downward trends.

From an environmental standpoint, it is interesting that red meat consumption appears to have declined in 2008. This may have been partially the result of fears related to mad cow disease, listeria outbreak or other food issues, or it may have been a conscious choice by consumers to eat less red meat for dietary reasons. Demographic changes also have the potential to affect dietary trends. For example, an ageing population may have different food needs and demands, as might a population that has become more culturally diverse. Regardless of the possible reasons for pattern changes in the average diet, it appears that Canadians are lowering their intake of the foods that are the most taxing on the environment. Red meat and milk are both animal products that fall into the category of foods that use the most energy to produce and simultaneously create the most GHG emissions.

¹⁵ Estimates on food availability have been adjusted to account for losses in cooking, storage and waste that occur in homes, restaurants and institutions while preparing and processing food

Canadians consumed an average of 79.5 kg of vegetables (both fresh and processed) in 2008, more than a third (36%) of which was potatoes. Lettuce, carrots, onions and tomatoes were the next most popular vegetables. Chinese cabbage, which is fairly new to the Canadian diet, averaged nearly half a kilo per year, about the same as radishes, and nearly triple the consumption of fresh peas.

Canadians ate more fresh fruit last year, averaging 38.8 kg, slightly higher than in 2007 (38.6 kg per person) and up notably from 35.9 kg in 2001. Apples, bananas, oranges and grapes remain the most popular, accounting for nearly half of all fresh fruit eaten, while tropical fruits like pineapples, mangos and papayas continue to make inroads into Canadian diets.

Overall, in 2008, the Canadian total daily intake of calories per person was 2,382, a decline of 131 calories from the peak recorded in 2001¹⁶. Calorie consumption has remained relatively stable in Canada since its upsurge in the 1990s.

Developing awareness and alternatives

The productive capacity of Canada's farmland is vital to support its population and to contribute to global food production. How we farm, what we chose to eat, how we obtain our food and a plethora of other components factor in to the degree to which food production impacts the environment. Food not only plays a crucial role in the national and local economies, but is a necessity that plays an inherent part of everyday life and culture in households across the country. Many organizations in BC aim at developing awareness of the potentially detrimental impact of certain food production activities. Players from all angles ranging from farmers, to consumers, to government have instrumental roles

¹⁶ Statistics Canada, 2009, Food Statistics, Catalogue #21-020-XIE

in the development and expansion of more sustainable, healthy agri-food system. BC is home to a wealth of organizations both in the public and private sectors who aim to promote more sustainable agricultural practices and consumer habits¹⁷.

¹⁷ For an example of developing initiatives, see the Province of BC's Agriculture Plan here:
http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/

Table 1**Total number of farms, by province, 1986 to 2006**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Canada	293,089	280,043	276,548	246,923	229,373
NL	651	725	742	643	558
PEI	2,833	2,361	2,217	1,845	1,700
NS	4,283	3,980	4,453	3,923	3,795
NB	3,554	3,252	3,405	3,034	2,776
PQ	41,448	38,076	35,991	32,139	30,675
ON	72,713	68,633	67,520	59,728	57,211
MB	27,336	25,706	24,383	21,071	19,054
SK	63,431	60,840	56,995	50,598	44,329
AB	57,777	57,245	59,007	53,652	49,431
BC	19,063	19,225	21,835	20,290	19,844

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Table 2**Farms Classified by certification status of organic products, by province, 2006**

	Total farms	Farms producing organic products	Certified organic products	Transitional organic products	Uncertified organic products
		Number of farms reporting			
Canada	229,373	15,511	3,555	640	11,937
NL	558	52	4	1	49
PEI	1,700	80	31	11	49
NS	3,795	359	61	14	294
NB	2,776	239	42	2	196
PQ	30,675	2,323	765	126	1,500
ON	57,211	3,591	593	148	2,989
MB	19,054	809	196	55	600
SK	44,329	2,197	1,181	184	1,088
AB	49,431	2,629	230	26	2,405
BC	19,844	3,232	452	73	2,767

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Table 3

Certified organic production by province, 2006 and 2001

	Farms reporting certified organic products		Hay or field crops		Fruit, vegetable or greenhouse products		Animals or animal products		Maple products		Other	
	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001
Canada	3,555	2,230	2,462	1,442	916	614	673	381	299	129	190	211
NL	4	3	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
PEI	31	23	19	11	24	17	4	3	0	0	2	6
NS	61	23	16	6	50	20	12	10	3	0	14	5
NB	42	25	14	6	27	16	8	6	8	4	7	3
PQ	765	372	303	105	208	125	161	53	279	119	42	35
ON	593	405	467	308	174	120	172	120	8	6	34	32
MB	196	90	170	74	21	7	44	17	0	0	3	8
SK	1,181	773	1,170	720	19	18	102	59	1	0	11	46
AB	230	197	193	142	31	21	84	60	0	0	13	30
BC	452	319	110	70	358	267	86	53	0	0	63	45

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Table 4

BC farms reporting certified organic products, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006	2001 to 2006		2001	2006
			number	% change	proportion of farms reporting certified organic products(%)	
All farms	20,290	19,844	-2.2	
Farms reporting certified organic products¹	319	452	41.7	
Type of certified organic product:						
Hay or field crops	70	110	57.1		22	24
Fruits, vegetables or greenhouse products	267	358	34.1		84	79
Animals or animal products	53	86	62.3		17	19
Maple products	0	0	
Other (herbs, etc.)	45	63	40.0		14	14

1. The total number of certified organic farms does not equal the sum of the parts because a farm could report more than one category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Table 5**GHG emissions and energy use from spending on food commodities, Canada, 2003**

	GHG emissions Kilotonnes CO ₂	Energy used terajoules	Contribution to total food	
			GHG emissions percent	Energy used
TOTAL	45,686.8	415,177.2	100.0	100.0
Beef	7,063.1	28,180.8	15.5	6.8
Pork	975.9	7,569.4	2.1	1.8
Poultry	2,430.4	22,326.3	5.3	5.4
Fish	1,119.9	15,985.1	2.5	3.9
Cheese	3,507.0	28,847.4	7.7	6.9
Eggs	581.5	4,784.4	1.3	1.2
Fluid milk	2,568.6	19,989.9	5.6	4.8
other	27,440.4	287,494.0	60.1	69.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Environment Accounts



Email transmission information service from BC Stats



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose [RSS](#)

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		Jul1/2009	% change on one year ago
BC	4,455.2		1.6
Canada	33,739.9		1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		2008	% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)			
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	197,931		3.3
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	164,520		0.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	37,529		-1.7
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	25,931		3.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month	12-month avg % change
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov	2,785		-0.8
Merchandise Exports - Nov	1,999		1.5
Retail Sales - Nov	4,679		0.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Dec 2009)			
BC	0.4		0.0
Vancouver	0.7		0.1
Victoria	0.5		0.1
Canada	1.3		0.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		Jan '10	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)			
Labour Force - BC	2,481		0.3
Employed - BC	2,281		0.5
Unemployed - BC	201		-1.7
		Dec '09	8.1 8.3
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.1		8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	8.3		8.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Feb 3/2010	Feb 4/2009
Prime Business Rate		2.25	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		3.60	5.00
· 5 year		5.39	5.79
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Feb 3/2010	Feb 4/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$		1.0609	1.2266
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$		0.9413	0.8117
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		Jan '10	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)			
BC	812.32		1.6
Canada	814.06		1.2
SOURCES:			
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate	Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics			
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca			

Historical Census Profiles

We have added 1986 Census Profiles to our site. This series of profiles is for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, and unincorporated areas. Recently we added detailed profiles for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, unincorporated areas and Indian reserves from the 1996 and 1991 censuses. Registration is required for access.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp

Aboriginal Peoples Profiles - BC

Province-level profiles have been added to this series. These profiles provide comparisons of the socio-economic conditions of the Aboriginal populations as well as profiles of Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis, and Status Indians using data from the 2006 Census.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/ap_main.asp

Population Estimates 2009

Population estimates by municipality, regional districts and development regions are now available for 2009.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.asp

Population Highlights - NEW

Population Highlights is a new BC Stats periodical that replaces both Migration Highlights and Immigration Highlights. This release provides detailed current information on population flows between British Columbia and other provinces/territories and the rest of the world, as well as other components of population change. Also, a feature article provides additional analysis on a topic of interest related to migration or immigration issues.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_pop.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Tourism Sector Monitor, January 2010
- Labour Force Statistics, January 2010

Next week

- Earnings & Employment Trends, January 2010
- Exports, December 2009
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 4th Quarter 2009